

expenditures for special education, and because of the fact that the committee did not kill the bill but left it sitting there in committee alive, that it seems to me that we have got a...for the first time we have gotten the attention of many of the special education folks that are...I would state to you I think that are willing now to come to us over the interim with a little bit different perspective to talk about how we, in fact, hold down the growing cost of special education. But we have discussed it a number of times in the Education Committee and we are of the mind that a cap on dollars, the cap on expenditures is probably not the correct way to go but instead a cap through the definitions. We need to put some language, we need to define more clearly the type of people that we intend to serve with special education. That was what we heard at the hearing on LB 714 is that the special education advocates who have not been willing in the past to discuss very openly the question of how we hold down the growing costs are suddenly because of the fear of LB 714 passing, suddenly because of the fear of a cap on dollars, become very willing to discuss methods of putting the cap through the definitions which in effect would not leave local school districts hanging. A cap on dollars from the state level in effect as long as we leave the definitions as broad as they are, would have the same situation develop at the local school district level that has developed without LB 518, that is that the local school district is left hanging for the cost to provide that service. So my suggestion to the body is that we do not bracket LB 518 but that because we do have a very viable live piece of legislation in the Education Committee that would, in fact, put that cap on, I think we have got the mechanism to bring to the table the special education folks and have a meaningful and in depth interim study. Now Senator Warner is correct that that interim study and resulting legislation would not be in time for the next appropriations process but neither would it be in time if we bracketed this bill. If you bracket this bill, it still is not going to be in time for that next appropriations process. Instead if you bracket the bill, what you are going to say...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...is that because of the concern of the cost at the state level, we are going to let all the property taxpayers of this state in those local school